



TAURANGA MARATHON

EVENT UPDATE – 12 OCTOBER 2021

Hi Guys,

For a few weeks now, this announcement has seemed almost inevitable. Still, it stings.

We're devastated to confirm that we will not be able to hold an in-person event for the 2021 Tauranga Marathon. Many, many hours of planning, re-planning and contingency making have ultimately fallen victim to the pandemic.

Chin up team ... because the Running Events crew are highly pumped to plan a truly kick @ss virtual edition of the 2021 event (with some astonishing special offers) and we'll see you in-person – and look you straight in the eye and say “onya mate!” – at the 2022 event.

Read on for more ...

2021 VIRTUAL TAURANGA MARATHON

As explained in our previous update, council confirmed the next available date after October 24 would be in May next year or beyond. With that option knocking on the door of the 2022 event, we have no option but to cancel the in-person event for 2021.

Although a virtual event wouldn't have been our first choice, we're going to make damn sure we do it right. Everyone still entered into the 2021 in-person event is now registered for the Competitive Virtual race – which takes place on Saturday and Sunday, 23 & 24 of October. There is also still the option of a Fun Virtual event, which is free to transfer to and gives you more scope to complete your run and qualify for your finisher medal. Full details of our virtual runs and how to register your finish time are here:

<https://runningevents.co.nz/virtual/>

We'll have an online event created on our facebook page where you can upload your glorious photo from the virtual run and tell the world how crazy you are. We will also have download-and-print **race numbers** for you to wear.

Remember that anyone who records a virtual finish time automatically receives:

- Finisher medal (& finisher shirt for 42km and 50km) couriered to you for free (if you ordered any merchandise, we'll put it in there for you too!)
- A voucher to the value of 50% of your original entry fee paid (see below on how you can use this to commit to the 2022 event)

MERIT AWARDS & SPOT PRIZES

Yep – we didn't forget. Everyone registered in the competitive virtual will be competing for some very keenly contested merit prizes. Not one of the show ponies? No worries – we will also be conducting an online spot prize draw on the Monday after the event where you could win one of 10 pairs of Asics shoes (thanks Sam from Shoe Science Tauranga Crossing!), a Garmin and a big screen TV!

Important! You must record a finish time before the prize giving takes place to be included in the spot prize draw which means using our Strava upload function. Get amongst it now so you know how it will work on race weekend.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

After two years of cancellations, we are **ABSOLUTELY, TOTALLY, DEFINITELY** going to knock the ball straight out of the ballpark in 2022. We're aiming for September 18th 2022 as our event date and we are looking at some major changes to improve the course and how the event will work, including earlier start times to ensure the best possible

running conditions for those taking on the longer distances. Stay social with us on facebook and keep checking the event web site for more information as we work towards a launch of the 2022 event on October 25th.

If you have already transferred to the 2022 event, there is nothing more for you to do except to start planning out the training sessions to get to the start line in peak performance! We're sorry we won't see you for the virtual, but we'll see you IRL in '22.

SPECIAL OFFER #1: SHOE SCIENCE TAURANGA CROSSING

Sam and the guys at Shoe Science Tauranga Crossing may be disappointed they won't be seeing you at the event site, but they still want you to make your virtual run the best it can be!

That's why, during race week – from October 18 – 24 – you can take your virtual race number into the store (printed out or on your mobile device) and they'll take a whopping 25% off your bill. That's right – **25% off everything in store** – for those taking on the virtual. Put your best feet forward and head in store to get great advice, great service (in a COVID safe environment) and a cracking deal! Thanks Sam!

SPECIAL OFFER #2: COMMIT TO 2022

For everyone who is taking on the virtual run in 2021 it's awesome and we love that you are doing that ... but we want to see you IRL so bad! That's why we're going to **open up registration for 2022 on Monday October 25th** and we're going to do a **rush delivery of your 50% vouchers** to everyone who has a finish time by 9am that day. We hope you'll want to celebrate your virtual run finish time – and **give COVID a poke in the eye** – by jumping online and slapping that voucher down to secure your 2022 event. With the Running Event's price guarantee, you can be assured these will be the cheapest entry prices we will offer for the event.

That's all for now – hope to see you out on the streets on the 23/24 October.

Stay safe everyone and keep on runnin'!

The REV Team
12 October 2021